



# Environmental Health

October 2002

## Food Biosecurity Specialist

The ADHS has hired Carrie Senseman as Food Biosecurity Specialist within the Food Safety & Environmental Services section. Carrie has the necessary skills to develop this highly important program to its full potential. Carrie's duties will be to work cooperatively with regulators, industry and citizens of Arizona to ensure that Arizona is prepared to handle terrorism issues relating to food and biosecurity. Carrie's position is funded through a bioterrorism grant from the Center for Disease Control. Carrie is presently going through extensive training to prepare her for the challenges ahead. If you have questions about the program or suggestions on issues related to the program contact Carrie at [csensem@hs.state.az.us](mailto:csensem@hs.state.az.us) or by telephone at 602-230-5937.

## The National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards

The National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards is a voluntary, comprehensive self-evaluation of your regulatory program. The FDA is actively working with local agencies in the first of what appears to be an on-going effort to bring about a more consistent and well-trained regulatory work force. Four Arizona counties, La Paz, Maricopa, Pinal & Yavapai, have recently finished the first year of this program. Many of the topics

and focus areas of the program are consistent with areas of future State delegation surveys (kinder, friendlier term for audits). If you are interested in seeing what this program is all about, contact Don Herrington at 602-230-5909. Participation in this program doesn't offer you extra brownie points, but will certainly help in preparing for a survey and determining your agencies strengths and weaknesses.

## Rules, etc.

As has been mentioned in prior newsletters, ADHS is in the midst of rule package preparation. The rule ADHS is now working on is Bottled Water, which is located in the Arizona Administrative Code, Title 9. Article 2. ADHS is looking to update the rule to reflect more consistency with current U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Presently, the Arizona rule has outdated references to the CFR's and is difficult to correlate between the two. If you have suggestions pertaining to the rule, please contact Ron Holley at [rholley@hs.state.az.us](mailto:rholley@hs.state.az.us) or by telephone at 602-230-5910.

Public and Semi-public swimming pool and spa inspection forms have been developed by ADHS. Just as in the Food Establishment inspection form, ADHS will provide the form to the counties who would like to use them. The forms are consistent with the Food Establishment form format and includes a comment and rule reference sheet.

## Training news and opportunities

Several exciting training opportunities will be available during the next year.

The Arizona County Department of Environmental Health Services Association (ACDEHSA) educational conference will be held March 6 & 7, 2003 in Laughlin, Nevada. This organization is well noted for the high quality educational content provided to people involved in food safety and onsite wastewater management. The annual meeting alternates annually between food safety and onsite wastewater management. The 2003 meeting will focus on food safety. Currently the organizers are arranging for speakers to present the very latest in information. Details will be made available when finalized. Mark your calendars to attend this conference!

The National Environmental Health Association is holding their annual educational conference in Reno, Nevada, June 6-11, 2003. Information can be obtained through [www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org) or by calling (303) 756-9090.

The FDA will conduct training on the topic of Food Processing, in Phoenix in 2003. Tentatively, the dates have been set for July 22-24 2003, at the Arizona State University Main Campus. Further updates will be made in future newsletters. If you have questions please contact Don Herrington at

[dherrin@hs.state.us](mailto:dherrin@hs.state.us) or by telephone (602) 230-5909.

The ADHS is continuing the development of the Professional Sanitarian Training. The development should be complete within the next few months. Contact Ron Holley at [rholley@hs.state.az.us](mailto:rholley@hs.state.az.us) or by telephone at (602) 230-5910.

ADHS is finishing the final touches on what may be the most complete food safety training materials available in Chinese. As you are aware, there has been a great increase in Chinese restaurants throughout Arizona. Many of the people who work in the restaurants are new to the United States and are not proficient in English. In an effort to assist regulators and industry alike, ADHS undertook the development of Chinese food safety training materials. This project should be completed within the next couple of months. ADHS is also available to assist the counties in food worker trainings where Chinese language skills are necessary. For more information contact Gork Yee at [gyee@hs.state.az.us](mailto:gyee@hs.state.az.us) or by telephone at (602) 230-5914.

The FDA has completed their "ORA U" training course. What is "ORA U"? ORA stands for Office of Regulatory Affairs. This training has been in development for some time. The major obstacle that had to be overcome was to develop an Internet system that would allow for password based access to many thousands of people across the country. In addition, record-keeping capabilities for monitoring status of completion and other participant information needed to be developed. The system testing is now complete and the FDA is ready to begin enrollment for food safety regulators. If you are

interested, contact the person in charge of your food safety program. Names are submitted from local government to ADHS and then on to FDA.

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### Employment opportunities

Yavapai County Health Department is currently accepting applications for an Environmental Health Specialist II. Starting salary is \$30,343. This position is based in Cottonwood. For more information contact Chris Sexton at (928) 771-3149.

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### Delegation Agreements

The Arizona Department of Health Services works cooperatively with the local counties to protect the public health. Often times the formal nature of this cooperation is through a delegation agreement.

Delegation agreements are jointly entered. Duties of the delegation and term lengths are set forth in the agreements. Typically each county health department or health services district has a delegation agreement. Not all of the counties have the same duties delegated. The reason for this can be varied, but usually including resources or expertise. Presently all counties conduct food establishment activities, but some do not do jail food establishments. There are some other minor differences between counties that involve school grounds inspections, pure food control, bottled water and children's camps.

During the upcoming delegation agreement period, ADHS will be striving to have more uniform responsibilities delegated to the counties.

ADHS is just beginning to coordinate with the counties and the health services district on a new delegation agreement that will go into effect on July 1, 2003.

Did you know that Arizona now has one health services district? The former Navajo County Health Department is now the Navajo County Health Services District. What is different about a health services district? Well..... you'll have to wait until the next newsletter to find out. We are doing the research now.

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### Annual Reports

Reporting of the last fiscal year is almost complete and the annual report is being put together. Some of the interesting things that are very apparent in the early formulation is that the local counties have done an excellent job in food establishment inspections. The early numbers indicate that food establishments are being inspected with great attention paid to the complexity of the food establishment. Higher complexity food establishments are being inspected more often than limited operations. This is strong agreement with the new Food Code in which risk management is a strong philosophy. Also, food establishment inspection numbers are also higher. This was accomplished when many of the counties were significantly burdened by changes to other rules and regulations for which they were responsible. Good job counties!

